



National Graded Championships

Rules 2024

(Previously known as Champion of Champions)

Rules Covering the Following Events:

District Graded Championships
National Graded Championships

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1. Competition Information

The District Graded Championship events are played to identify the best player in each respective district for men and women in each grade.

The National Graded Championship event is played to identify the best player from all districts for men and women in each grade.

At the District Graded Championships, players in a single district play off to find the District Champion in each grade. The District Champion is then eligible to travel to the National Graded Championship finals to play off for the national title in each grade representing their club and their district.

2. Player Eligibility

To be eligible to compete a player must be:

1. A full financial member of an affiliated club to Squash New Zealand Poipātū Aotearoa (SNZ).
2. Registered on the March 29th grading list, with newly graded players to have played at least three competitive matches.
3. All players competing in the National Graded Champs are required to have passed the Club Referee qualification (available on the SNZ website). The qualification is valid for two seasons e.g., if you sat the test in 2022 the exam will have expired by 2024. SNZ will verify that all players in teams representing their district have gained this qualification. Any matches played at the event by players that have not passed this test by June 17th will count as 3/0 losses for their team. It is the responsibility of the player to ensure this test is completed with enough time for results to be collated.

Players will be eligible to compete in the grade they are in or a lower grade as of March 29th. If a player is D1 on the March 29th grading list, he/she would be eligible for the D Grade District and National Graded Championship events, even if he/she subsequently went up to C2 at the time of either event.

SNZ will run a grading list on March 29th. Each District will be emailed their respective grading list for checking player eligibility.

SNZ reserves the right to review and alter grade eligibility if there is a case of a player moving up a grade without playing a match due to SquashLevels calibrations and/or should there be any evidence of withholding or manipulating results.

Only results from club tournaments, district events or sanctioned club grading events will be considered for grading purposes. Where there is evidence of individual results being entered to manipulate the grading list those results will be deleted.

3. Entries

3.1 District Graded Championship Entries

Players must register with their district for the District Graded Championship by their district's closing date. District Graded Championship formats are controlled by the individual districts, see appendix one for supported options.

All players must fulfil **ALL** requirements of Section 2 Eligibility.

3.2 National Graded Championship Entries

The winning player at each grade in the District Graded Championship is to be invited to enter the national finals so that each district is represented at each grade by their best player.

Winning players must return a completed entry form to their District Administrator within five days following the end of the District Graded Championship.

If the Winning player in a grade is unable to enter, their place will be offered to the runner-up, and then the third placed player, and so on. Additional players may be invited to attend the event as per the Protocol for Inviting Additional players below. All districts must indicate runner-up's who are willing to travel (in addition to the district champions) at the time of submission of entry.

All players and districts must:

- Submit entries via the official entry form by May 17th – No late entries will be accepted.
- Agree to pay the host club the appropriate entry fee for the event.

Players are only able to compete in one draw for the event.

3.3 Protocol for Inviting Additional Players

If numbers necessitate in particular divisions, runners-up may be invited from districts.

Invitations will be based on districts initial indication of available runner ups allowing an equal opportunity for all districts to gain fair representation. Where runners-up are not indicated by the districts then SNZ will base invitation on proximity to venue and districts participation in district events for that grade. Runner-ups must fulfil eligibility criteria in section 2.

Where required, the host club and SNZ may invite players at their discretion from any district to achieve workable draw sizes. These players must fulfil eligibility criteria in section 2 but do not necessarily need to have competed in the District Graded Championships event.

4. Substituting Players

Districts can substitute players who become unable to attend the National Finals, these players must meet the eligibility rules outlined in section 2.

Any district substituting players in or out shall make application in writing (by email) to the Tournament Director no later than 4.00pm June 7th.

A player who has been substituted out cannot be substituted back in at a later stage.

5. Event Logistics

5.1 Event Format

The National Graded Championships and District Graded Championship will be played using monrad draws, pool play may be used if more appropriate. Players will get a minimum of three games where possible.

The national finals will be played from 3pm on the Friday. Final matches will be scheduled to finish by 4pm Sunday to allow players to travel home.

All draws and seedings will be circulated seven days prior to the event.

5.2 Event Seeding

The District Graded Championships will be seeded by each District, according to the March 29th grading list.

The National Graded Championship Finals will be seeded by the Tournament Director according to the June 12th Grading List.

5.3 Scoring and balls

For grades C and below each individual match (both in District Championships and National Finals) shall be the best of five games with PAR to 15 (must win by 2).

For B Grade and above each individual match (both in District Championships and National Finals) shall be the best of five games with PAR to 11 (must win by 2).

The ball to be used will be:

- double yellow dot for A-B grade
- single yellow dot for C grade and below

5.4 Tie Rules

The first players must be on court ready to warm up no more than fifteen minutes following the conclusion of the previous match, or the scheduled start time of the tie, unless a valid reason why they will not be ready to commence is communicated with tournament control prior. Failure to do this will result in the match being defaulted if a complaint is made to the Disputes Committee by the opposition team manager. If after another 45 minutes (one hour total from the scheduled start time) the second player is not on court, then the entire tie is defaulted unless further time is allowed at the discretion of the tournament director.

5.5 Winning Pool Play

When competitors play one another in a Pool, the final order of merit in that Pool is decided based on all results in that Pool, as follows:

- First by greater number of matches won.
- If two players are still equal, then by the result between those two players.
- If three or more players have won the same number of matches, then by the greater positive difference between games won and lost in matches between those three players.
- If two players are still equal, then by the result between those two players.
- If three or more players still equal, then by greater positive difference between points won and lost in matches between those three players.
- If two players are still equal, then by the result between those two players.
- If more than two players are still equal, the winner will then be decided by random drawing of places.

5.6 Results

The Tournament Director is required to display the full match scores throughout the event and to forward these to SNZ at the end of each day.

These results will be communicated to the media and copies of the full results will be available for participants from SNZ within in 5 days to the end of the event.

The host club is required to enter the results into iSquash daily as the tournament progresses. The host club will also maintain an up-to-date spreadsheet of district points accumulated towards the overall district trophy as the tournament progresses with copies forwarded to all district managers and SNZ at the completion of each round.

6. Timeline

- March 29th: Grading list cutoff date to determine player eligibility.
- April 12th – 14th: District Graded Championships suggested weekend.
- May 17th: Districts submit all entry forms to the host club & SNZ.
- June 7th 4pm: All player substitutions due to tournament director in writing (e-mail)
- June 12th: Grading list run to determine player seedings for National Champs.
- June 14th: Draws completed and set out to players.
- June 17th: Deadline for all players to have completed their club referee exam.
- June 21st – 23rd: National Graded Championships

7. District Trophy

The Ossies Champion of Champion District Trophy will be presented to a winning district based on participation across all grades and performance during the event.

- One point will be awarded to each district for an entry in each grade (both male and females) i.e., a maximum of 12 points available. Additional invited players will not be included, only those who are listed on the districts official entry form will be included.
- Districts will be awarded 1 point for each match won by their player listed on the official entry form.
- 1 Bonus point will be awarded to the district for each title won.
- The winning district will be the one with the most points across participation and performance.
- Where two or more districts are tied on points it will go back to number of games won by each district.
- In the case where two or more districts are tied on games it will go back to the number of points won by each district.
- Where districts are tied on points the districts will be declared joint winners.

8. Trophies

Trophies for the District Graded Championship Eliminations will be awarded by the district.

SNZ will provide trophies for the following places for the National Graded Championship Finals:

Grade	Men	Women
A	Manurewa Cup	Central Cup
B	Otago Cup	Reid Family Plate
C	Northland Kauri Trophy	Northland Kauri Trophy
D	Canterbury Cup	Khandallah Tray
E	Patterson Cup	Rangitikei Trophy
F/J	Roger Suckling Trophy	Ohakune Trophy

The host club will provide a little keepsake trophy for the winners and runners up of each grade.

9. Appendix One

District Graded Championship Elimination qualifying events supported by SNZ.

- District Graded Championship qualifying event - one that is open to any district player eligible in each grade.
Example: Northland run a District Graded Championship Elimination event that is open to any Northland Club player to enter like they would any other open event. Players are put into graded divisions, with the winner of each grade invited to the National Finals.
- Club champion from each club and grade qualifies to compete in the District Graded Championship Elimination event, where they play the other club champions in their grade, with the winners then invited to represent the District at National Finals.
Example: Central Clubs run their club championship events prior to the district graded champs. Clubs then send a team of all the club champ winners for each grade to compete against the other club's champions (very well supported club/district competition – trophy on offer). The winners of each grade at the district event are then invited to be in the Central team that plays the National Graded Championship event.
- Invitations - no District Graded Championships is held, instead the district sends invitations out to the top players of each grade to be part of the district team to compete at the National Graded Championship event.
Example: Could send an open EOI with criteria to all the players then select the team based on responses and who meets the criteria.